



Comptroller General
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

Decision

Matter of: Grafika Type Specialists

File: B-256783

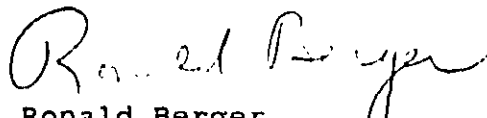
Date: April 14, 1994

DECISION

Grafika Type Specialists protests the disqualification of its bid submitted to the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) for Program C343-M. Grafika's bid contained a 1-day acceptance period, and subsequent to bid opening GPO notified Grafika that because of the 1-day acceptance period its bid "has expired." Grafika states that the 1-day acceptance period reflected a clerical error and that it intended to offer the 60-day period provided for but not required by the solicitation. Grafika seeks reinstatement of its bid.

A bidder may not extend its acceptance period, and thus revive its expired bid, if doing so would compromise the integrity of the competitive bidding system. When a bidder has limited its bid acceptance period to something shorter than the automatic period provided by the solicitation and to which other bidders have agreed, revival of the bid after its expiration would compromise the integrity of the system because that would give the bidder an unfair advantage which would be prejudicial to other bidders that offered the longer 60-day acceptance period. See Mid Atlantic Label, Inc., B-234120, Mar. 31, 1989, 89-1 CPD ¶ 338. The fact that the shorter acceptance period resulted from a clerical error does not change this rule.

Accordingly, there is no basis for permitting reinstatement of the bid. The protest is dismissed.


Ronald Berger
Associate General Counsel